

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 OPR-02 SY-10 M-03 A-01 OC-06

CCO-00 RSR-01 /115 W

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O R 302205 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1871

INFO DIA DOD

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS, AR

SUBJECT: QUIJADA ASSASSINATION FOLLOW- UP

REF BA 2975

1. AFTERNOON ALRIL 30 PRESS PROVIDED DETAILS WHICH CONFIRM RADIO REPORTS OF ASSASSINATION EARLIER TODAY IN BUENOS AIRES OF RADM(R) HERMES JOSE QUIJADA, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF JOINT GENERAL STAFF (SEE REFTEL). ASSASSINS REPORTEDLY WEARING POLICE UNIFORMS. THEY APPARENTLY ONLY AFTER QUIJADA AND DID NOT OPEN FIRE ON CHAUFFEUR. THEIR IDENTITY REMAINS UNKNOWN AND NO COMMUNIQUE FROM EXTREMIST GROUP RESPONSIBLE HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING.

2. COUNCIL OF ADMIRALS MET IN EARLY AFTERNOON APRIL 30 AND ISSUED COMMUNIQUE DENOUNCING MURDER OF QUIJADA. THEY DESCRIBED EPISODE AS PART OF WAR NOT BETWEEN ARMED FORCES AND TERRORISM, BUT RATHER BETWEEN TWO SYSTEMS OF LIFE - ONE A " STATELESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOTALITARIANISM WHERE DEATH IS A MEANS TO ACHIEVE UTOPIAN OBJECTIVES" AND THE OTHER A DEMOCRACY. COMMUNIQUE CONCLUDED BY CALLING ASSASSINATIONS A CRIME AGAINST ALL ARGENTINES.

3. PRESIDENT LANUSSE HAS CABLED PRESIDENT- ELECT HECTOR CAMPORA IN MADRID EXPRESSING HIS WISH TO CONFER URGENTLY WITH LATTER IN PERSON ON INTENAL SECURITY QUESTIONS. AFTERNOON APRIL 30 PRESS INDICATES THAT CAMPORA PLANNING TO DEPART MADRID MIDNIGHT MAY 1. CAMPORA PROBABLY WAS RETURNING ANYWAY IN ORDER TO ATTEND CEREMONY WITH WHICH CONGRESS WILL BE OPENED MAY 3.

4. COMMENT. NAVY UNDOUBTEDLY CONCERNED WITH THIRD TERRORIST ACT DIRECTED AT THAT ARM IN PAST FOUR MONTHS (OTHER TWO BEING ALEMAN KIDNAPPING AND BERISSO MURDER) AND MAY EVEN PRESS FOR A RETHINKING BY MILITARY ON TURNING OVER POWER TO PERONIST GOVERNMENT- ELECT. INCIDENT IS SERIOUS AND TENSION IS HIGHER THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE BERISSO ASSASSINATION. HOWEVER, PERON' S ACTION IN OUSTING GALIMBERTI IS COUNTERBALANCE AND EMBASSY BELIEVES PROBABLY DIALOGUE BETWEEN CAMPORA AND MILITARY, TOGETHER WITH GALIMBERTI OUSTER, PROVIDES MANEUVER ROOM FOR BOTH SIDES TO DEFUSE SITUATION.
LODGE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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